



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: June 27, 2017

SUBJECT: Update on the design of Terrill Park (CIP 59)

Background

In the FY17 budget there was \$125,000 approved for the full design of Terrill Park. The park would include an artificial turf field with flood lights, new parking and other park improvements. VHB from Bedford NH was selected last winter to update the master plan for the park, coordinate the required permits and create the necessary design plans for construction. The FY18 CIP has construction beginning in FY19 and funded over three fiscal years for a total project cost of \$3,925,000.

Terrill Park is in an ideal location for an improved park as it is centrally located within Concord and has easy access from I93 and downtown Concord. The Park along with the new Greenway Trail and future improvements at Kiwanis Riverfront Park/Arena will be a wonderful recreation corridor for the entire community. This new recreation corridor will improve how we live, work and play.

Terrill Park encompasses 21 acres of land along the Merrimack River, mostly undeveloped and over all in poor condition. The park is the home of Concord's only Dog Park, has a walkway along the Merrimack River with great views of downtown Concord and the State House. The park has two parking areas, the old snow dump area is used for parking by the users during the spring, summer and fall, the upper parking lot is in very poor condition with partial pavement and reclaim. During the warmer months there are several picnic tables available for residents to enjoy along the walking trail.

Working with VHB several goals were developed for Terrill Park:

- Create a plan that encourages all ages of the community to enjoy the park.

- Create our first artificial athletic field that is consistent with current and future needs of leagues.

- Develop a park that will be a "Gateway" to the new recreation corridor along the Merrimack River.

- Connect with the new Merrimack River Greenway Trail.

- Improve parking for park users.

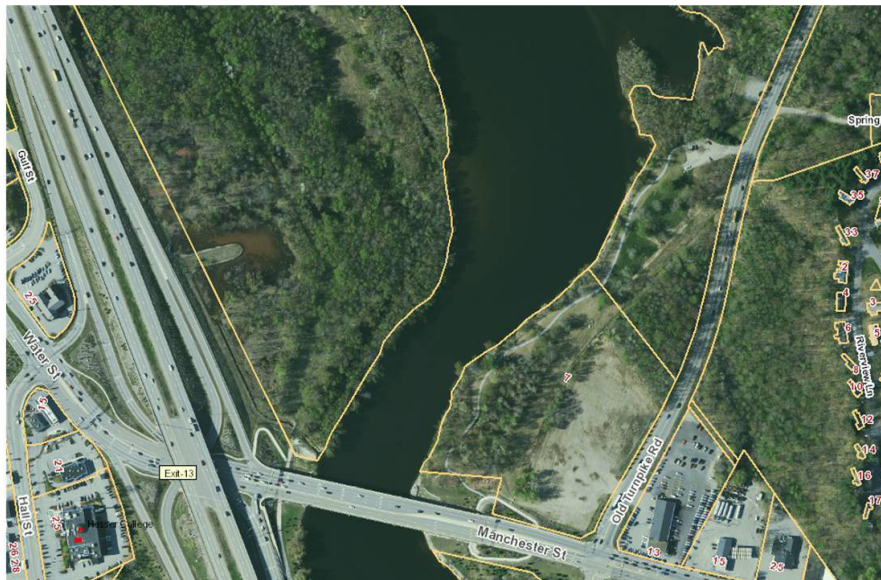
- Be consistent with prior plans for the park (2005 and 2009).

- Improve the overall appearance and reputation of Terrill Park.

Update on the Merrimack River Greenway Trail.

At the December 14, 2015 City Council Meeting, the City Council appropriated the sum of \$200,000, including \$100,000 in grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and \$100,000 in private donations from the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail to be used for the design and construction of a portion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail Project (CIP 543). LWCF projects in New Hampshire are administered by NH Department of Recreation and Economic Development (NHDRED). This portion of the project will stand alone as a recreational resource within Terrill Park as an accessible viewing platform of the Merrimack River, an inlet tributary, and downtown Concord. The platform will allow for nature and wildlife observation/education.

Since the appropriation, the project has been proceeding through the design and permitting process. The project consists of 100 feet of 11'-3" wide boardwalk with an observation bump-out and 160 feet of 10' wide paved path. The Preliminary Plans have been shared / reviewed with staff and final plans and specifications are underway. A pre-permit application coordination meeting was recently completed and permits should be submitted within the next month. Typical NHDES permit review time is about 75 days. The project is anticipated to be advertised for construction during the winter with construction occurring in 2018 and taking six to eight weeks to complete.



Close up of Terrill Park as it is today.

New Terrill Park Master Plan

VHB and the Parks and Recreation Department staff presented an update to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee at their February 2017 meeting. Several of the sport leagues were also at the meeting. Highlights of the new concept include the following park amenities:

- Multi-Purpose Artificial Athletic Field with flood lights
 - Support buildings (bathrooms, maintenance building and concessions area)
 - New larger Dog Park located near the middle parking lot
 - Two new parking lots, lower lot for 110 cars and middle lot 25 cars
 - Playground
 - Splash Pad
 - Workout stations along the river walk
- The new plan also incorporates the future double right turn lane from old turnpike road onto Manchester street (future CIP in Engineering Division)

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee voted to continue designing the plan as presented. The users at the meeting supported the addition of an artificial field in Concord as it will allow them to start practicing and even play games several months before the regular grass fields open, and later in the fall. Several leagues indicated they would like to see several multipurpose artificial athletic fields built in the community.

With the approval of the concept by RPAC, this spring VHB completed wet lands mapping and conducted soil drillings to ensure the site would be able to support the approved concept. The new park concept is below. RPAC again reviewed park plans at their July 2017 meeting and recommend moving forward with final design, permitting, finalize construction costs and develop annual operating of expenses. This fall VHB will be going back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to review the different artificial turf options that are available for the new field.



 Terrill Park Illustrative Plan
Created by VHB
July 2017

 Terrill Park Concept – July 2017

Discussion

As part of the work scope VHB has also developed preliminary cost estimates for the new concept for Terrill Park. We are currently recommending a two phase approach for the construction of the park. Please note as the plans continue to be developed over the next several months, the cost estimates will firm up. VHB working with staff will also help project annual operating costs of new park.

Phase 1: \$2.4 to \$2.9 million

- Artificial Turf Field with lights (multi-sport field)
- Fence around field with safety netting on each end
- Maintenance/bathroom building
- Press Box with score board
- Bleachers for 140 spectators, room for additional portable bleaches
- New 110 car parking lot
- Relocated Dog Park within park
- New middle parking lot for 25 cars

Phase 2: \$700,000 - \$1.3 million

- Playground
- Picnic Shelter
- Splash Pad
- Concession stand
- Workout stations along the trail along the river

Over the next several months VHB along with staff will be presenting the plan for review and permitting with both the City and the State agencies. It is anticipated final design documents along with required permits will be finalized by spring 2018.



Aerial View of the new Terrill Park

Comments on new Terrill Park Plan from social media sites (From Feb 2017)

Facebook post from Concord Parks and Rec Department, dated February 17, 2017, at 8:33am. The post features a rendering of the proposed Terrill Park Master Plan, which includes a professional-size turf field, an enhanced dog park, a trail with workout stations, and a splash park. The post has 4,785 people reached and 12 shares. Comments include: "Nice article in today's newspaper regarding our plans for Terrill Park. Thoughts????", "Thank you to the Concord High School Basketball kids that have helped...", "People Also Like: Moline Parks and Recreation Department, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Concord Family YMCA, Sports & Recreation in Concord, New Hampshire, Liked by This Page: GoodLife Programs & Activities, Rundlett Middle School PTO, Chat (Off)".

Article from The Concord Monitor, dated Thursday, February 16, 2017, titled "Proposed Master Plan". The article features a rendering of the proposed Terrill Park Master Plan, which includes a professional-size turf field, an enhanced dog park, a trail with workout stations, and a splash park. The article is by Nick Reid, Monitor staff. The article includes a list of Editor's Picks: "Beyond the mosque: Portraits of a community", "To the person who's helping the hungry: Thanks a million", "Mother's quest for dead son's medical records could be solved if bill clears Legislature", "Threat of snow, cold can't keep Black Ice hockey fans away", and "Loudon greenhouse looks to reimagine farming with automated growing". The article also includes a Microsoft Cloud advertisement.


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Gone to the dogs! Plan for Terrill Park has lighted turf field, new dog park



Plan for Terrill Park has lighted turf field, new dog park
A professional-size turf field, an enhanced dog park, a trail with workout stations and even a splash park. Those are some of the features included in a preliminary design of the reimagined Terrill Park, as approved by the Recreation and Parks...
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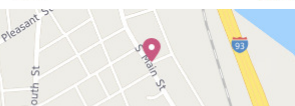
Welcome to Concord, NH!

Be Concord!

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